

Contact: Tresia Webb 573-888-6664

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES CITY OF CLARKTON

Gregory C. Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented the City of Clarkton a Mock Check for \$15,750. The grant is part of the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities grant program and will be used to purchase a new police car.

U. S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson said, "Our first responders face added challenges in rural America, and keeping vehicles and equipment in top condition is important to public safety and law enforcement. I am glad USDA Rural Development has identified this important opportunity in Clarkton and made a grant to support the city's police department."



1st row: Terry Simpson, Mayor; Tresia Webb; Freddie Polk, Police Chief; and Greg Branum

2nd row: Pam Allen, City Clerk; Terry Luetkemeyer, and Cindy Northern

"I would like to personally thank everyone involved in this project," Branum said. "Financing essential services in support of a community is consistent with USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's commitment to the future of rural communities."

Mayor of Clarkton, Tony Simpson said, "Grants from Rural Development help small communities, like Clarkton, who could not otherwise afford a new police car."

Chief Freddie Polk stated, "I would like to thank the USDA for the grant of \$15,750 for the new police car. Without the grant for the police car, the Clarkton Police Department would not be able to patrol and enforce the city ordinances and state laws."

Branum added, "Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo> or by contacting Tresia Webb, Rural Development Manager, at the

Kennett Local Office of USDA Rural Development at 704 Bypass, Kennett, MO 63857 or by calling 573-888-6664.

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